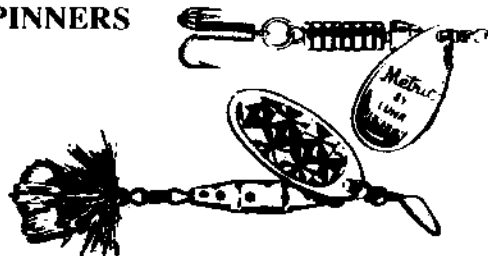


****ATTENTION****

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SPINNERS



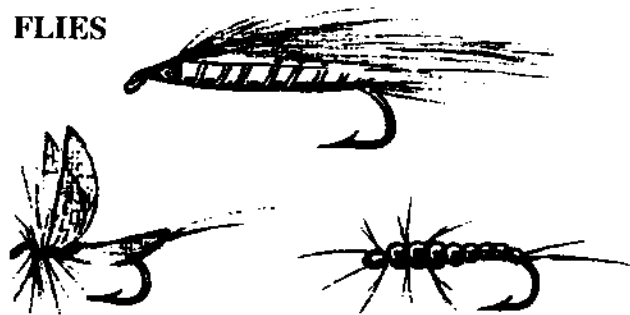
Washington
Department
of Wildlife

Aquatic
Education
Program

SPOONS



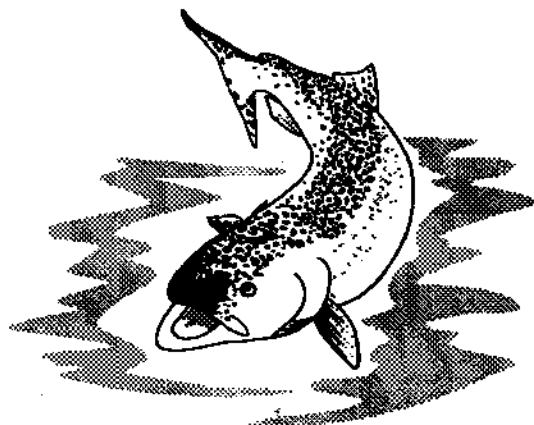
FLIES



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Bigger and Better Trout



For Washington Streams

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The Washington Department of Wildlife wants to improve stream trout fishing to provide some of the best trout fishing in the country — through increased natural reproduction of wild trout.

In past years, many of Washington's streams were heavily fished, some to the point of not having enough fish to reproduce for adequate repopulation. The problem became obvious when biologists compared trout populations in easily accessible streams (anything you can drive to) to those only the more athletic and determined can reach. The inaccessible streams typically had five to ten times more trout. Simply put, accessible stream trout populations - unless they are under sufficiently protective regulations - are commonly "fished out."

For the past several years, the Department of Wildlife has been implementing a plan to make stream fishing better for you. We studied our own streams and reviewed over eighty relevant scientific reports from across North America. In 1986, based on an analysis of our own findings and those from other areas, new regulations for stream fishing were implemented, and the results are encouraging.

The Washington Department of Wildlife, as well as other states and Canadian provinces, concluded that *the only way to maintain a healthy, fishable, wild trout population is to ensure that females spawn at least once before being retained by an angler.* To do this, biologists determine at what length the females first spawn and set this as the minimum size limit. *The spawning trout are also protected by setting the opening date for stream fishing to June 1.* The late opener also ensures that young salmon and sea-run trout have completed their seaward migration before stream fishing is allowed.

The story does not stop here. Investigations in Washington and across North America have shown that when trout are caught on bait, up to one-half of the released fish will die from hooking-related injuries. Since individual fish have the potential to be caught three to ten times before reaching maturity, it is obvious that few will survive to spawn if they are caught on bait. However, with artificial lures, a hooking mortality of five percent or less is typical. *It is crucial*

that the use of bait be restricted when managing for wild trout.

This type of management has already produced dramatic results in Washington as well as in other states and provinces. In most cases, the number of spawners has increased by up to ten times, the catch rate by anglers has increased four or five times and the number of fish taken home has stayed about the same, although the fish are significantly larger.

STATEWIDE STREAM LISTING

The following streams, or specific sections of them, have minimum lengths and bait restrictions to reduce mortality of released sub-legal fish to insure that females spawn at least once. A few streams also have "catch-and-release only" sections. The status of trout populations in each of these areas will be closely watched by the department's professional staff. For specific information on each river, check your current Game Fish Seasons pamphlet.

NOTE:

The following listing is intended solely as a guide. Be sure to consult your fishing pamphlet for specific sections of rivers and for specific regulations.

REGION 1

S.F. Asotin Creek
Calispell River
Chewelah Creek
Colville River
Grande Ronde River
Harvey Creek
Kalispell Creek
Pataha Creek
Spokane River
Sullivan Creek
Touchet River (forks and tributaries)
Tucannon River

REGION 2

Chewuch (Chewack) River
Lake Creek

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- Lost River
- Methow River
- N.F. Salmon Creek
- W.F. Salmon Creek
- Similkameen River
- Sinlahekin Creek
- Twisp River

REGION 3

- American River
- Bumping River
- All Lake Chelan tributaries including Stehekin River
- Chiwaukum Creek
- Chiwawa River
- Entiat River
- Icicle River
- Little Naches River
- Little Wenatchee River
- Mad River
- Nason Creek
- Rattlesnake Creek
- Swauk Creek
- Taneum Creek
- Wenatchee River
- White River
- Yakima River

REGION 4

- Greenwater River
- S.F. Nooksack River
- Pilchuck Creek
- Pratt River
- Sauk River
- N.F. Skykomish River
- S.F. Skykomish River
- Snoqualmie River
- N.F. Stillaguamish River
- Taylor River
- N.F. Tolt River
- Tye River

REGION 5

- Cowlitz River Tributaries:
 - Butler Creek
 - Cispus River
 - Johnson Creek
 - Ohanapecosh River
 - Silver Creek
 - Tilton Creek (all forks)
 - Yellowjacket Creek
- Mill Creek
- Nisqually River Tributaries:
 - Berry Creek
 - Little Nisqually River
 - Mineral Creek
 - N.F. Mineral Creek

REGION 6

- Black River
- Elwha River
- Gray Wolf River
- Jefferson Creek
- Satsop River
- S.F. Skokomish River
- N.F. Skokomish River
- Skookumchuck River
- Vance Creek
- Waddell Creek
- Washington Creek

NO BAIT? NOW WHAT?

Okay, so your favorite stream now has restrictions on the use of bait. How in the world are you going to catch fish?

Well, you have a variety of choices, all of which are at least as effective as bait when you get the hang of them. The three most popular categories of artificial lures for trout are spinners, spoons and flies. You can use any or all of these on the spinning or spincasting outfits you already own; you do not have to invest in new fly fishing equipment just because the regulations say "bait prohibited."

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Fishing with spinners is one of the more popular ways to fish for trout in streams. The effectiveness of the flashing whirling blade as a lure to trout has been proven over and over. Spinners come in a wide selection of colors, sizes and styles. Some are designed to run deep, some produce noise, others have bucktails and beads. The one thing they all have in common is that they all catch fish. Experiment with different sizes to find which weight spinner works best with your rod. If you find that you can't get any distance from your cast, add split shot to your line, about 16 inches above the spinner.

An important accessory when using spinners is a good snap-swivel attached between the end of the line and the spinner. This keeps line twist to a minimum, and allows you to try different spinners without re-tying. Keeping the twist out of your line will eliminate most of those irritating bird's nests in your reel.

Fishing with spoons is a favored technique of other seasoned fishermen. A spoon is a piece of metal designed to wobble and flash as it is either retrieved or allowed to drift downstream. One advantage of spoons is the longer casts permitted by their improved aerodynamics and increased weight. Spoons are often preferred in larger rivers and in lakes for this reason.

Spoons also come in a variety of sizes, shapes and colors. The first choice is to match the size of the spoon to the body of water and size of your quarry; generally the smaller the stream the smaller the spoon. Then try some different colors such as brass, copper, chrome, red-and-white, etc. Some trout may prefer the hammered or dimpled spoon instead of the smooth-finished lures. When fishing spoons, try to imitate the darting action of small fish, keeping the lure as close to the bottom as possible.

Most spinners and spoons come with a treble hook when purchased from the sporting goods store. One technique experienced lure fishermen use is to replace the treble hook with a single hook or cut off two hooks with cutters. This greatly reduces the number of times you'll snag the bottom and lose your lure, but it does not reduce fish hooking and holding abilities. It also

makes it easier to release undersized fish without harming them, which is the whole idea behind bait restrictions.

Fishing with flies is also easy, even with spinning and spincasting equipment. Flies are imitations of insects found in streams and lakes. Since small aquatic insects make up the vast majority of a trout's diet, small flies are extremely effective lures. Dry flies are imitations of adult, winged insects, and are intended to float on the water's surface. Wet flies imitate either submerged adults, or insects in their juvenile life stages called nymphs.

A fly's small size requires different casting strategies. The technique people are most familiar with is a fly rod and reel, with thick line that provides the necessary weight for casting. But this is by no means, the only way to cast a fly.

Anyone who has any sort of rod and reel can convert to casting flies for less than a dollar. All that is needed is a bubble rig. Bubble rigs come in different designs, all intended to add a floating weight to the line for casting.

On some, simply tie a 4-8 foot leader between the fly and the bubble, with the bubble tied directly to the fishing line. Other types slip over the fishing line before the fly is attached, and are adjustable in both length of resulting leader and in casting weight. Either way, you can use standard fishing gear to cast flies to waiting, hungry trout.

Fishing with artificial lures is really a lot easier than you may think. If you become skilled in using these three basic lures, there will be a few fishing situations you cannot master. Remember to fish all sections of a stretch of water; vary your presentations by casting upstream as well as down; and don't be afraid to experiment. Your reward will be a continuing improvement in your fishing enjoyment as these regulations lead to more and bigger fish in the streams of Washington.

Good fishing!